

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF
GASTROPOD FROM EASTER ISLAND

By LEO G. HERTLEIN

Easter Island (Isla de Pascua or Rapa Nui), well known for the gigantic statuary found there, lies in the south Pacific ocean in latitude $27^{\circ}05'$ South, longitude $109^{\circ}20'$ West, about 2,350 miles west of Chile to which country, politically, it belongs. Marine mollusks from this island have been recorded by several authors. The number of species is not large; the recent list by Steele⁽¹⁾ contains 68 species and eight genera of which the species are unknown. To this list can be added *Dolabella agassizi* MacFarland⁽²⁾ also described from Easter Island. Further collecting on the island undoubtedly will reveal the presence of additional species.

In August, 1958, Mr. Ray Summers presented to the California Academy of Sciences 14 small gastropods which were collected at Easter Island by Fray Sebastian Englert⁽³⁾, a resident on the island. Study of the specimens failed to reveal their identity with any described form, therefore the species represented is here described as new.

The author wishes to express his appreciation to Mr. Summers for making the specimens available. Acknowledgment also is due the following who advised concerning the relationship of the species: Dr. G. Dallas Hanna and Allyn G. Smith, California Academy of Sciences, Dr. A. Myra Keen, Stanford University, and Dr. Edwin H. Bryan, Jr., and Dr. Dorothy Getz, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Genus *Pisania* Bivona***Pisania engleri*** Hertlein, new species.

(Plate 7, figures 1 and 2)

Shell small, one and one-half nuclear whorls followed by five and one-half slightly convex whorls; the first whorl with 12 rows of radial elongated nodes separated by shallow interspaces,

(1) Steele, P.H., "Easter Island Shells", *Nautilus*, Vol. 70, No. 4, pp. 111-113, April, 1957 (issued April 29, 1957).

(2) *Dolabella agassizi* MacFarland, *Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, Harvard Coll., Vol. 35, No. 5, p. 306, pls. 1-2, 3 (figs. 2-4), 4-7, 8 (figs. 1-3, 5-7), 9-10, September, 1918. "Habitat:—Easter Island, South Pacific Ocean."

(3) See P. Sebastian Englert, "La Tierra de Hotu Matu'a: Historia, Etnología y Lengua de la Isla de Pascua." *Imprenta v edit.* "San Francisco" (Padre Las Casas, Chile), pp. 1-533, illustr., and map, 1948.

crossed by concentric threads irregular in size; the radial rows increase to 14 on the second whorl and the radial sculpture develops into flattened ridge-like nodes which on the fourth whorl develop into a series of fine ribs with intervening shallow interspaces, the whole crossed by numerous concentric threads; the last whorl broadly rounded and crossed by numerous fine low concentric threads, about 12 on the base; columella gently curved, near the base a faint oblique groove is present; interior of the outer lip smooth; color yellowish-white, most of the nodes on the early whorls are brown, and on the last two whorls there are rows of oblong or nearly square brown patches. Length, 9.9 mm., maximum diameter of body whorl, 3.7 mm.

Holotype and two paratypes in the California Academy of Sciences, Department of Geology Type Collection; paratypes also in Stanford University, in the San Diego Society of Natural History and in the Bernice P. Bishop Museum.

The generic assignment of this new species is provisional. A comparison with specimens in the collections of the California Academy of Sciences failed to reveal any very similar species. Dr. A. M. Keen, Stanford University, and Drs. E. H. Bryan, Jr., and D. Getz, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, likewise failed to find any similar shell in the collections in those institutions. All agreed that the species appears to be a buccinoid with a general resemblance to species of *Pisania* such as *P. ignea* Gmelin.⁽⁴⁾

This new species differs from *Pisania ignea* in that the shell is much smaller, the concentric sculpture on the later whorls is more closely spaced and the color is arranged in brown squares rather than in flammules. The smaller, more slender shell with coloration of brown squares rather than in flammules, are features which serve to separate the new species from *Pisania tritonoides* Reeve.⁽⁵⁾

The author is pleased to follow the suggestion of Mr. Ray Summers that the new species be named for Fray Sebastian Englert who collected the type specimen.

(4) *Buccinum igneum* Gmelin, Linn. Syst. Nat., ed. 13, Tome 1, Pars 6, p. 3494, 1791. "Habitat . . . an muricis potius species?" Ref. to Martini, Conchyl.—Cab., Bd., 4, pl. 127, fig. 1217. See also Tryon, Man. Conch., Vol. 3, p. 145, pl. 71, figs. 190-192 (only), 1881 (as *Pisania ignea*). "Red Sea; Singapore; Philippines; Viti Islands."

(5) *Buccinum tritonoides* Reeve, Conch. Icon., Vol. 3, *Buccinum*, sp. 77, December, 1846. "Hab. Island of Ticao, Philippines; Cuming." See also Tinker, S.W., "Pacific Sea Shells" (revised edit.) (Charles E. Tuttle Co.: Rutland, Vermont and Tokyo, Japan), 1958, p. 130, upper and middle rows of figures on plate (p. 131) (as *Pisania tritonoides*).



PLATE 7

Figures 1 and 2. *Pisania engleri* Hertlein, new species. Fig. 1. Paratype. Height, 9.0 mm. Fig. 2. Holotype. Height, 9.9 mm. (Photograph by G. Dallas Hanna).